

**Department of Transportation
Project No. 146-196
Replacement of Bridge No. 05588
Route 74 over Hockanum River
Vernon**

**Thursday, April 24, 2014
Council Chambers Room in Vernon Town Hall
14 Park Place
Vernon, Connecticut**

Minutes

Present:

Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT)

Timothy Fields, Mary Baker, Lesgie Ruiz, Dean Cerasoli, Mark St. Germain, Jaspal Jutla, Michael Marzi

Close, Jensen and Miller, P.C.

Edward Sakl III

Zuvic Carr Associates

Marici Zuvic, James Otis, John Schearer, Sam Hopkins

Town of Vernon

Craig Perry (Engineering Department)

6 Residents

Presentation: A Public Information Meeting for State Project No. 146-196, Replacement of Bridge No. 05588, Route 74 over Hockanum River in Vernon, was held at the Council Chambers Room of the Vernon Town Hall in Vernon CT., on April 24, 2014, at 7:00 pm. Approximately six (6) residents and a representative from the Engineering Department attended the meeting. Lesgie of CTDOT opened the meeting with a brief introduction of the project team. John Schearer of Zuvic Carr Associates presented the project to the attendees. He explained the reasons for the replacement of the existing bridge along with the description of the proposed bridge and roadway work. It was explained to the attendees that the majority of the work will be performed utilizing a seven (7) week detour. The proposed detour length is 3.5 miles long, utilizing Route 74 (Windsorville Road), State Route 286 (Pinney Street), Windmere Avenue and State Route 74/83 (Windsor Avenue). The project was well received.

Michael Marzi explained the property acquisition process, for which all properties affected by the project are owned by the Town of Vernon, which was followed by a brief question and answer period.

Public Comments and Questions: The following questions/concerns were raised and discussed at the meeting.

- Craig Perry, Town of Vernon Engineering Department, asked what the anticipated time of year restrictions would be for the required in-water work. Mary Baker responded that it depends on the Connecticut Department of

Energy and Environmental Protection requirements, but typically the allowable in-water work period is from June 1st to September 30th.

- One resident asked how long the gas main will be out of service during the gas main relocation work. John Schearer explained that the gas company will perform the gas main tie-ins during off-peak hours and will notify residents of the shutdown periods.
- One resident stated that it is a heavy school bus route. Mary Baker explained that proper advance notification will be provided to school officials and bus routes affected by the detour would be re-routed as required. It is anticipated that the detour will take place during the summer months to minimize the impacts on the school buses.
- One resident asked how far the sidewalk will extend on each side of the bridge. John Schearer stated that the sidewalks would be constructed within the roadway reconstruction limits, approximately 110 feet west of the bridge and approximately 180 feet east of the bridge.
- One resident asked if the sidewalk limits can be extended to connect to the sidewalks that were constructed as part of the roundabout project. Mary Baker responded that it would be a good project through their regional planning agency and they should contact their Town Engineer or Planner regarding this topic.
- One resident stated that the project is long overdue and they were content that the roadway was being widened as it's difficult for school buses and larger vehicles to traverse eastbound and westbound simultaneously over the bridge. They were happy that the roadway was not being re-aligned due to speed concerns and that a sidewalk was being added as part of the project.
- Mark St. Germain, CTDOT District 1 Construction Supervising Engineer, asked if the Hockanum River Association had been contacted. Mary Baker responded that they had been contacted and that the bridge project is to the north of their trail.
- One resident stated that the roundabout project has sidewalks that do not lead anywhere and questioned why the sidewalks for this bridge project were not being connected to the sidewalks adjacent to the roundabout. Mary Baker stated that Town Officials shall be notified of these concerns. This bridge project is being funded under Fix-it-First Funds, which pays for the bridge replacement project.
- One resident asked how the Emergency Services will be accommodated during the detour. Mary Baker explained that they will be notified of the detour schedule and that mutual aid will be provided by the respective towns.

The anticipated construction duration is five (5) months. It is anticipated that the roadway closure will occur during a seven (7) week period during the summer months. Construction is planned for 2015 pending receipt of the environmental permits and availability of funds.

The meeting ended with informal discussions with various parties present. The meeting concluded at 8:00 p.m.